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ABSTRACT

Forty-six secondary school vocational agricultural teachers from eight states were surveyed to determine the need for revising the AGDEX filing system (which is used primarily for filing curriculum materials), the extent of revision needed, and the market potential for a revised edition. The data from thirty-one respondents were analyzed by using frequency counts and percentages. Eighteen AGDEX users were identified, with 55% of them teaching in the area of production agriculture. Of the eighteen users, ten use it for both curriculum materials and audio-visual materials, six for curriculum materials only, and two for audio-visual materials only. The users appear generally quite pleased with the AGDEX system. Sixty-four and one-half percent of all the respondents indicated a willingness to purchase a revised coding manual, while only 55.6 percent of the users were willing to make the purchase. (The survey forms are appended.) (EM)

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ED169278

THE DETERMINATION OF THE NEED TO REVISE THE AGDEX FILING SYSTEM AND ITS MARKET POTENTIAL

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THE DETERMINATION OF THE NEED TO REVISE THE
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The AGDEX filing system for the field of agricultural education is used extensively by public school vocational agricultural teachers. The AGDEX filing system was last revised in 1969.

At the 1977 meeting of the Agricultural Education Curriculum Materials Committee of the American Vocational Association, a decision was made to investigate the possibility of revising the AGDEX filing system. The dynamic field of agricultural education requires that frequent up-dating be made. The first step decided upon was to conduct a survey to determine the need for revision, the extent of revision needed and the market potential for a revised edition.

A request was made to the Agricultural Education Program at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to conduct the survey. The Agricultural Education Division of the American Vocational Association provided $50 toward the expense of conducting the survey.

Objectives

The overall purpose of this study was to determine the desirability of revising the AGDEX filing system.

The specific objectives for the study were:

1. To establish a descriptive profile of AGDEX users within the selected sample.
2. To find how those teachers selected for the sample are presently using the AGDEX filing system.
3. To determine if present or potential users of the AGDEX filing system are willing to purchase a revised edition of the coding manual.

4. To determine how much money present and potential users of the AGDEX filing system are willing to pay for a revised coding manual.
5. To determine if the teachers selected believe the AGDEX filing system should be revised.
6. To determine, if the AGDEX filing system should be revised, what revisions should be made.

Limitations

Because random selection was not utilized in obtaining the sample, the results cannot be generalized to the entire population of agricultural education teachers. The results can only be generalized to the respondents of the questionnaires.

Definition of Terms

AGDEX = A system for classifying, indexing and filing agricultural publications.

User = An agricultural education teacher who utilizes the AGDEX filing system for classifying either curriculum materials or audio visual materials.

Methods and Procedures

The research methodology used for the study consisted of survey research

Population and Sample

The population was obtained by identifying a contact person in each of eight states. The purposefully selected states were composed of two

states in each of the four regions of the American Association of Teacher Educators in Agriculture. The contact people selected were members of the Agricultural Education Curriculum Materials Committee or people who had expressed an interest in the AGDEX system. Page 17 of the Appendix lists the contact people. Table 1 summarizes the eight states represented in the survey.

TABLE 1

States by Region Participating in the Study

Region	States
Central	Iowa Ohio
Eastern	Connecticut Pennsylvania
Southern	Mississippi Virginia
Western	New Mexico Utah

A total of 46 teachers were contacted in the eight states. The 46 teachers were selected by each state's contact person. Each contact person was asked to identify a respected teacher within the state for each of the United States Office of Education Taxonomy for Agricultural Education. Table 2 summarizes the teacher participants for each state. Table 3 summarizes the participants by taxonomy area.

A discrepancy occurred in Table 3 between the taxonomy identified for the sample and that identified for the returned questionnaire. The taxonomy identification for the sample was made by the state contact person. The identification for the returned questionnaire was made by

TABLE 2

Participants by State

State	Sample n	Returned Questionnaires	Percent Return
Connecticut	7	6	85.7
Iowa	6	3	50.0
Mississippi	6	1	16.7
New Mexico	3	2	66.7
Ohio	7	5	71.4
Pennsylvania	7	6	85.7
Utah	4	2	50.0
Virginia	6	6	100.0
Total	46	31	67.4

TABLE 3

Participants by Taxonomy Area

Taxonomy	Sample n	Returned Questionnaires
Production Agriculture	8	12
Agricultural Supplies & Service	5	2
Agricultural Mechanics	8	3
Agricultural Products	6	0
Processing & Marketing		
Horticulture	8	4
Forestry	4	1
Renewable Natural Resources	7	4
Total	46	26

the respondent. In addition to the seven named taxonomy areas, one teacher indicated he taught adult students full time, three teachers indicated a mixture of various taxonomy areas and one additional teacher left the response blank.

Instrumentation

Two instruments were designed and utilized for this study. One instrument, entitled AGDEX Information Survey, obtained background information about each respondent. Typical information concerned taxonomy taught, number of printed instructional materials in department, use or non-use of AGDEX, willingness to purchase a revised AGDEX coding manual, etc. Note Appendix page 21for an example combination of several smaller instruments. Each of the ten major filing sections within the 1969 AGDEX coding manual were reproduced. The subjects were asked to change or add different points for the two sections they were asked to review. The sections receiving comments will be made available for consideration of eventual AGDEX revision. An example of an instrument used for the sectional comments can be observed in the Appendix on pages 21-25.

Both the AGDEX INFORMATION SHEET and the sectional review instruments were reviewed by a committee for useability. The committee consisted of the eight state contact people. A preliminary version of the instruments were sent to them in February, 1978. The reactions of the state contact people were incorporated into the final version of the instruments.

Data Collection

The project director established a packet of material for each of the 46 members of the sample. The packet consisted of a cover letter (note Appendix page 18) from the director, the AGDEX INFORMATION SHEET

and two section instruments. The section instruments included in the packet were ones considered most appropriate for the particular subject receiving them.

The set of packets for a state were then sent to that state's contact person. The contact person was asked to add his personal cover letter endorsing the project. Postage for the initial mailing and the return packets was paid by Virginia Tech.

A stick of chewing gum as an incentive was included with each packet sent to a subject. In addition, the AGDEX INFORMATION SHEET was printed on blue paper.

All completed instruments were sent to the project directors. Two weeks after the instruments were mailed from the state contact person a follow-up postcard was mailed to all non-respondents.

The activities centering around data collection are summarized in the following time line:

Event	Time
Instrument Packets Mailed to State Contact People	April 24, 1978
Instruments Mailed From Contact Person to Subjects	May 1, 1978
Postcard Follow-up to Non-respondents	May 15, 1978
Last Instrument Received	June 28, 1978

Questions Answered

The following questions were answered by the study:

1. What is a profile of AGDEX users?
2. What ways are the AGDEX filing system used?
3. Are present and potential users of the AGDEX filing system willing to purchase a revised edition of the AGDEX coding manual?

4. How much money will present and potential users of the AGDEX filing system pay for a revised coding manual?

5. Should the AGDEX filing system be revised?

6. What revisions should be made in the AGDEX filing system?

Data Analysis

The data were analyzed by use of frequency counts and percentages. The computer facilities at VPI & SU were used to analyze the data.

Results of the Study

Tables 4 through 11 emphasize the results of the study.

TABLE 4

Users of the AGDEX Filing System
by Teaching Specialty Area by State

Specialty Area	Connecticut	Iowa	Mississippi	N. Mexico	Ohio	Pennsylvania	Utah	Virginia	Total
Production Agriculture	2	2	0	1	1	1	1	2	10
Agricultural Mechanics	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Natural Resources	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horticulture	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Agricultural Business	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adult	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Mixture	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	5	2	0	1	2	3	1	4	18

TABLE 5

Respondents Status by User or
Non-User Category for AGDEX

Status	n	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Use for Both Curriculum Materials and Audio-Visual Materials	6	19.35	19.35
Use for Curriculum Materials Only	10	32.26	51.61
Use for Audio-Visual Materials Only	2	6.45	58.06
Non-User	13	41.94	100.00
Total	31	100.0	

TABLE 6

Number of Departmental Curriculum
Material Reference Titles by User Category

Number of Reference Titles	AGDEX Users		AGDEX Non-Users	
	n	Percent	n	Percent
1-50	0	0.0	0	0.0
50-100	0	0.0	3	23.1
100-200	2	11.1	1	7.7
200-500	5	27.8	3	23.1
500-1000	7	38.9	3	23.1
over 1000	2	11.1	2	15.4
No Response	2	11.1	1	7.7
Total	18	100.0	13	100.1

TABLE 7

Number of Teachers in
Department by User Category

Number of Teachers	AGDEX Users	AGDEX Non-Users
1	4	4
2	4	2
3	2	2
4	4	3
5	2	1
6	0	0
7	0	0
8	0	1
9	0	0
14	1	0
No Response	1	0
Total	18	13

TABLE 8

Rating of Satisfaction of AGDEX
Filing System by Users

Rating	Audio-Visual User	Curriculum Materials User
Extremely Pleased	1	3
Pleased	6	13
No Response	1	0
Total	8	16

TABLE 9

Response to Question on Willingness to Purchase or Not Purchase Revised AGDEX Filing Manual By User Category

Response	User n	User Percent	Non-User n	Non-User Percent
Purchase	10	55.6	10	76.9
Not Purchase	7	38.9	2	15.4
No Response	1	5.6	1	7.7
Total	18	100.1	13	100.0

TABLE 10

The Amount of Money Potential Purchasers Are Willing to Spend for a Revised AGDEX Filing Catalog by User Category

Dollars	AGDEX Users	AGDEX Non-Users
8	1	1
10	3	4
15	3	0
15 or more	3	1
No Response	8	7
Total	18	13

TABLE 11

Categorization of Suggested Changes
by Filing Catalog Category

Category	Additions	Deletions	Modification
Field Crops	4	0	1
Horticulture	7	0	1
Forestry	9	2	5
Animal Science	6	0	2
Soils	7	0	3
Diseases & Pests	1	0	1
Agricultural Engineering	2	0	1
Agricultural Economics	7	0	0
Agricultural Occupations	11	0	2
Vo-Agr. Professional	8	0	0
Total	62	2	16

Conclusions

As a result of the study the following answers were found to the original questions raised.

1. What is a profile of AGDEX users?

The mode responses for number of teachers in the departments of users was 1, 2 and 4. Generally the number of teachers per department was relatively small. However, one department had 14 teachers.

The departments using the AGDEX filing system had a relatively large number of reference titles. Over 88 percent of the departments had 200 or more titles.

By far the most popular taxonomy area for AGDEX users was production agriculture. Over 55 percent of the users indicated they taught primarily in the production agriculture area.

2. What ways are the AGDEX filing system used?

The AGDEX system is used primarily for filing curriculum materials. For the 18 identified users, ten use it for both curriculum materials and audio-visual materials, six use it for curriculum materials only while two use it for audio-visual materials only.

The users of the AGDEX filing system appear to be generally quite pleased with it. For the eight teachers who used it for audio-visual materials, one was extremely pleased, six were pleased and one gave no response. For the sixteen teachers who used it for curriculum materials, three were extremely pleased and 13 were pleased.

3. Are present and potential users of the AGDEX filing system willing to purchase a revised edition of the AGDEX coding manual?

The majority of the respondents (64.5%) indicated a willingness to

purchase a revised coding manual. The current users of AGDEX were slightly less willing to make the purchase; with 55.6 percent willing to do so.

One interpretation of this result is that current users may be hesitant to alter the files they are presently using.

4. How much money will present and potential users of the AGDEX filing system pay for a revised coding manual?

For the 16 teachers responding to this question, the mode response was $10 with seven indicating that amount. However, if the categories of $15 and more are added together, a second mode of seven can also be found.

Recommendations

5. Should the AGDEX filing system be revised?

It appears to be the time to revise the 1969 coding manual. Technical agriculture changes as rapidly as any of the science areas. Also, agricultural education in general has added specialty options such as renewable natural resources and agricultural supplies and service which are not totally reflected in the 1969 edition.

6. What revisions should be made in the AGDEX filing system?

According to the teachers surveyed, the majority of changes (77.5%) needed are additions to the present manual. The area receiving the largest number of suggested additions was agricultural occupations (n = 11). The area receiving the second largest number of suggested additions was forestry (n = 9).

Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations

It would appear that the current AGDEX coding manual should be revised. The revised manual should cost between 10 - 15 dollars. As much as feasible the suggested changes made by the teachers surveyed should be recognized.

APPENDIX

Contact People

Dr. Alfred J. Mannebach
University of Connecticut

Dr. Richard I. Carter
Iowa State University

Dr. Jasper Lee
Mississippi State University

Dr. Paul Vaughn
New Mexico State University

Dr. Harlan E. Ridenouer
Ohio Agricultural Education Curriculum Materials Service

Dr. David Howell
The Pennsylvania State University

Dr. Gilbert Long
Utah State University

Dr. John Hillison
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
State University

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Mr. Dale Schutt
Vo-Ag Center
Glaustonburg High School
Glaustonburg, Connecticut 06033

Dear Mr. Schutt:

The Agricultural Education Division of the American Vocational Association through its curriculum materials committee is conducting a survey concerning possible revision of the AGDEX filing system. We very much need your help in this process. Whether you currently use the AGDEX filing system or not your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

You will find enclosed three forms which will ask your opinion concerning AGDEX. The blue form will ask general information concerning the AGDEX filing system. The two white forms refer to specific areas taken exactly from the AGDEX filing book. For the right hand (change to or add) column on the white forms, indicate any changes or additions which should be made. If you believe other areas should be added, feel free to indicate what they should be. Please make the white sections as close to a revised and finished product as possible.

When you have completed the forms, put all three in the self-addressed and stamped envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours truly,

John Hillison
Chairman
AGDEX Revision Committee

P.S. Please enjoy a stick of Big Red chewing gum while completing the forms.

JH:sw
encl.

AGDEX INFORMATION SHEET

Name_____

School_____

Address_____

_____

_____

Your teaching specialty, option area or taxonomy within the field of agriculture_____

Number of teachers in Agricultural Department_____

Approximate number of printed instructional material titles in department. (Please do not enter number of copies, but number of titles.)

1-50_____

50-100_____

100-200_____

200-500_____

500-1000_____

over 1000_____

Do you use AGDEX for filing printed curriculum materials? yes___No___

Do you use AGDEX for filing Audio Visual materials? yes___no____

If yes for; slides_____filmstrips_____transparencies_____

If you use AGDEX how pleased are you with it as a filing system? Please check one line for each category.

For printed materials		For AV materials
_____	Extremely Pleased	_____
_____	Pleased	_____
_____	Displeased	_____
_____	Very Displeased	_____

I use another system instead of AGDEX for filing materials.
Yes_____No_____.

The name of the other system is_____

If the AGDEX filing system was revised I would be willing to obtain a new AGDEX coding manual. Yes_____No_____

If you checked yes please indicate how much you or your school will be willing to pay for a new coding manual, including color-coded labels.

_____$ 5.00

_____ 6.00

_____ 7.00

_____ 8.00

_____ 9.00

_____ 10.00

_____ 11.00

_____ 12.00

_____ 13.00

_____ 14.00

_____ 15.00

_____ more than $15.00

Please make any general comments you would like to concerning the AGDEX filing system.

Please indicate what changes you believe should be made in this section of the AGDEX coding manual.

FIELD CROPS

Present Form	Change To Or Add
100 FIELD CROPS	
100 FIELD CROPS - GENERAL	
101	. . . .
102	
103	
104	
105	
106	
107	
108	
109 OPEN	
110 GRAIN CROPS	
110 GRAIN CROPS - GENERAL	
111 CORN	
112 WHEAT	
113 OATS	
114 BARLEY	
115 GRAIN SORGHUMS, Milo, Kafir	
116 RICE	
117 RYE	
118 OTHER GRAINS-Buckwheat, Emmer, Spelt, Millet	
119 OPEN	
120 FORAGE CROPS	
120 FORAGES - General Hay & Silage Crops	
121 ALFALFA	
122 CLOVERS - Trefoils	
123 SWEET CLOVER & SOIL IMPROVEMENT CROPS - see also 537	
124 Southern Forages, Lespedeza, Vetch Lupines, Kudzu, Sericea etc.	
125 OTHER LUGUMES - A - Z	
126 FORAGE SORGHUMS, Sudan Grass	
127 FORAGE GRASSES - A - Z	
128 FORAGE CROPS - Other	
129 OPEN	
130 PASTURES	
130 PASTURES - GENERAL	
131 PERMANENT PASTURES	
132 ROTATION & MEADOW PASTURES	
133 ANNUAL, SUPPLEMENTAL & EMERGENCY PASTURE CROPS	
134 RANGE & RANGE CROPS	
135 IRRIGATED PASTURES see also 560	
136	
137 OTHER PASTURE, Crops & Range	
138	
139 OPEN	

Present Form	. . . .	Change To Or Add

140 OIL AND SEED CROPS
140 OIL AND SEED CROPS - GENERAL
141 SOYBEANS
142 FIELD BEANS, VELVET BEANS, COW PEAS, FIELD PEAS
143 PEANUTS
144 CASTOR BEANS
145 SAFFLOWER & SUN FLOWER
146 SESAME & PERILLA
147 COTTON - SEED
148 FLAX - LINSEED
149 OPEN

150 FIBER CROPS
150 FIBER CROPS - GENERAL
151 COTTON
152 FLAX - FIBER
153 HEMP
154 RAMIE
155 ABACA
156 YUCCA
157 KENAF
158 OTHER FIBER CROPS
159 OPEN

160 ROOTS AND TUBERS
160 ROOT AND TUBER CROPS - GENERAL
161 POTATOES, see also vegetables 250
162 SWEET POTATOES & YAMS
163 MANGELS & RUTABAGAS, see also 250
164 ARTICHOKES - CASSAVA
165
166
167
168
169 OPEN

170 SUGAR CROPS
170 SUGAR CROPS - GENERAL
171 SUGAR BEETS
172 SUGAR CANE
173 SWEET SORGHUMS - SORGO
174
175
176
177
178
179 OPEN

Present Form		Change or Add To
180	SPECIALTY CROPS	
180	SPECIALTY CROPS	
181	TOBACCO	
182	HOPS	
183	BROOM CORN	
184	MINT CROPS	
185	GUAYULE	
186	OTHER INDUSTRIAL CROPS	
187		
188	OTHER SPECIAL TIES, see also 260	
189	OPEN	
190	OPEN	
190		
191		
192		
193		
194		
195		
196		
197		
198		
199	OPEN	
00	FIELD CROP PRODUCTION	
00	FIELD CROP PRODUCTION - GENERAL	
01	GENERAL REFERENCES, Handbooks, Tables, Catalogs, Bibliography	
02	PROFESSIONAL AGRONOMY & CROPS ASS'NS, Societies, Journals	
03	CROP, SEED & TRADE ASS'NS, Newsletters, Reports, Journals	
04	FIELD CROPS PERIODICALS, Magazines	
05	PLANT SCIENCE - GENERAL	
06	BOTANY, ECOLOGY, TAXONOMY	
07	PLANT PHYSIOLOGY, MORPHOLOGY	
08	PLANT CHEMISTRY, BACTERIOLOGY	
09	OPEN	
10	MANAGEMENT	
10	PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT - GENERAL	
11	CROP SELECTION & ADAPTATION	
12	CASH CROPPING	
13	FEED PRODUCTION	
14	RANGE MANAGEMENT	
15	SEED & PLANT PRODUCTION	
16	MANAGEMENT SPECIALTIES	
17	FARM TO MARKET HANDLING	
18		
19	OPEN	
20	CULTURE	
20	CROP CULTURE - GENERAL	
21	CULTURAL PRACTICES	
22	SEEDING & PLANTING	
23	SEED, PLANT & SOIL TREATMENTS	

	Present Form	Change or Add To
24	SPECIAL CROP PRACTICES, Clipping Topping, Thinning, etc.	
25	QUALITY PRODUCTION PRACTICES & STANDARDS	
26		
27		
28		
29	OPEN, Soils see 500, Insects see 600 Equipment see 700	
30	VARIETIES	
30	VARITIES & SPECIES-GENERAL	
31	VARIETY SELECTION & ADAPTATION	
32	VARIETY RECOMMENDATIONS	
33	VARIETY CLASSIFICATION, Identification and Description	
34	VARIETY CHECKS & TESTS, Demonstrations & Yield Trials	
35	VARIETY DEVELOPMENT	
36	HYBRID VARIETIES, Breeding see 42	
37		
38		
39		
40	IMPROVEMENT	
40	BREEDING & IMPROVEMENT - GENERAL	
41	PLANT BREEDING & GENETICS	
42	HYBRID BREEDING , Commercial Crop Breeding	
43	SEED & PLANT CERTIFICATION	
44	SEED & PLANT IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATIONS	
45	SEED & PLANT SOURCES - Dealers, Growers, Catalogs, Price Lists	
46	SEED & PLANT LAWS-REGULATIONS	
47	CROP JUDGING	
48	CROP EXHIBITS	
49	OPEN	
50	HARVESTING	
50	HARVESTING - GENERAL	
51	FIELD HARVESTING METHODS	
52	SILAGE & SOILAGE	
53	PASTURE & GRAZING	
54	CROP HANDLING	
55	FIELD DRYING & CURING	
56	HARVEST QUALITY CONTROL	
57	MARKET PREPARATION, Cleaning, Grading, Washing	
58	HARVESTING - OTHER	
59	OPEN Harvest Equipment see 740	

	Present Form	Change Or Add To
60	STORAGE	
60	CROP STORAGE - GENERAL	
61	FARM STORAGE METHODS	
62	CROP CONDITIONING, DRYING & CURING - see also 730	
63	REFRIGERATED & COLD STORAGE	
64	COMMERCIAL STORAGE	
65	STORAGE QUALITY CONTROL	
66		
67		
68		
69	OPEN	
70	PROCESSING	
70	CROP PROCESSING - GENERAL	
71	FARM TO MARKET PROCESSING, Ginning, Shelling, Pulling, etc.	
72	FARM FEED PROCESSING-Dehydrating, Pelleting, Grinding, Mixing	
73	FEED MANUFACTURING	
74	FOOD PROCESSING	
75	COMMERCIAL PROCESSING, Fibers, Oils, Seeds, By-products	
76	FARM PACKAGING	
77	COMMERCIAL PACKAGING	
78	OTHER PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY	
79	OPEN	
80	PRODUCTS - UTILIZATION	
80	CROP PRODUCTS & USES - GENERAL	
81	FEEDS - see also 400/50	
82	FOODS & FOOD PRODUCTS	
83	FIBERS	
84	FATS, OILS & BY-PRODUCTS	
85	CROP INDUSTRIAL USES	
86	DRUG & MISC. USES	
87	CROP UTILIZATION - OTHER	
88	CHEMURGY & CROP PRODUCT RESEARCH	
89	OPEN	
90	OPEN	
90		
91		
92		
93		
94		
95		
96		
97		
98		
99	OPEN	